

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's finding of the allowable condition of Claims 8-15 if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph.

I. 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant has amended Claims 8, 11, and 13. Claim 8 has been amended to claim that the bypass valve is coupled to the at least one filter assembly to divert water to the fixture without passing through the at least one filter assembly. Claim 11 has been amended to depend on Claim 8. Claim 13 has been amended to claim that the bypass valve is coupled to a water line for diverting water to the fixture without passing through the filter media. Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments to Claims 8, 11, and 13 overcomes the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph. Such action is earnestly solicited.

II. 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Saxton, U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0144952. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Snaper, U.S. Patent 6,241,878. The

Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Northcut et al., U.S. Patent 6,423,223. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the above patent application, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-7.

III. 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Northcut et al., U.S. Patent 6,423,223 in view of Rosenberger et al., U.S. Patent 6,709,599. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the above patent application, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-7.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's claimed invention is deserving of patent protection because it describes a useful and functioning apparatus which is patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment Letter, including the amendments to the Claims, and in view of the Remarks offered in conjunction therewith, are fully responsive to all aspects of the objections and rejections tendered by the Examiner in the Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that he has persuasively demonstrated that the above-

identified Patent Application, including Claims 8-15 are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

If the foregoing does not place the case in condition for immediate allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned for purposes of a telephone interview.

If there are any fees incurred by this Amendment Letter, please deduct them from our Deposit Account NO. 23-0830.

Respectfully submitted,



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